

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9, and ending at page 8, line 19, with the following redlined paragraph:

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for identifying a binding partner to a DKP compound according to any of the aspects described herein, comprising: ~~immobilizing~~ immobilizing proteins known to be involved in the TNF- α signaling pathway onto a suitable carrier; and passing a solution of said compounds in isolation or mixture over said proteins and analyzing for compound:protein complex formation using surface plasmon resonance (SPR). This method may be conducted in a manner similar to that reported by Karlsson, R et al. Biosensor Analysis of Drug-Target Interactions: Direct and Competitive Binding Assays for Investigation of Interactions Between Thrombin and Thrombin Inhibitors. *Anal. Biochem.* **2000**, 278(1), 1-13. For other examples of identifying small molecule-protein interactions using SPR see the ~~Biacore website: <http://www.biacore.com>~~ Biacore website at WorldWideWeb.biocore.com.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 1, and ending at page 16, line 17, with the following redlined paragraph (with deletions indicated by strikethrough text and insertions indicated by underlined text):

As used herein, "compounds described in the chemical literature" may be identified though various reference books and databases. Suitable reference books and treatise that detail the synthesis of reactants useful in the preparation of compounds of the present invention, or provide references to articles that describe the preparation, include for example, "Synthetic Organic Chemistry", John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York; S. R. Sandler et al., "Organic Functional Group Preparations," 2nd Ed., Academic Press, New York, 1983; H. O. House, "Modern Synthetic Reactions", 2nd Ed., W. A. Benjamin, Inc. Menlo Park, Calif. 1972; T. L. Gilchrist, "Heterocyclic Chemistry", 2nd Ed., John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992; J. March, "Advanced Organic Chemistry: Reactions, Mechanisms and Structure", 4th Ed., Wiley-

Interscience, New York, 1992. Specific and analogous reactants may also be identified through the indices of known chemicals prepared by the Chemical Abstract Service of the American Chemical Society, which are available in most public and university libraries, as well as through on-line databases (the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., ~~www.acs.org~~ at their website at WorldWideWeb.acs.org may be contacted for more details). Chemicals that are known but not commercially available in catalogs may be prepared by custom chemical synthesis houses, where many of the standard chemical supply houses (e.g., those listed above) provide custom synthesis services.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 27, and ending at page 29, line 7, with the following redlined paragraph (with deletions indicated by strikethrough text and insertions indicated by underlined text):

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for identifying a binding partner to a DKP compound as disclosed herein, where the method comprises: ~~immobilizing~~ immobilizing protein known to be involved in the TNF- α signaling pathway onto a suitable carrier; and passing a solution of said DKP compounds in isolation or mixture over said protein and analyzing for compound:protein complex formation using surface plasmon resonance (SPR). This method may be performed in analogy to the method described in Karlsson, R et al. "Biosensor Analysis of Drug-Target Interactions: Direct and Competitive Binding Assays for Investigation of Interactions Between Thrombin and Thrombin Inhibitors" *Anal. Biochem.* **2000**, 278(1), 1-13. For other examples of identifying small molecule-protein interactions using SPR see the Biacore—website:—~~http://www.biacore.com~~ Biacore website at WorldWideWeb.biocore.com.